Archie ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
SEGA
SONIC UNIVERSE™
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
#1
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
PART ONE
PEPPERS AMAS 2 HERMS

CASTLE D'COOLETTE.

YOU PICKED THE WRONG CASTLE TO CRASH, BUDDY!

BIRTHRIGHT

Writer: IAN FLYNN
Pencils: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
Inks: JIM AMASH
Colors: MATT HERMS
Letters: JACK MORELLI
Cover By:
JAMAL PEPPERS, AMASH & HERMS
Variant Cover By:
LAMAR WELLS, AMASH & HERMS
Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO
Editor-in-Chief: VICTOR GORELICK
President: MIKE PELLERITO
Publisher: JON GOLDWATER
Special thanks to:
SANDRA JO, MAI KIYOTAKI
and to the Character
Business and Licensing
Department at
SEGA Corporation

DE LO CONTRARIO! I'M *EXACTLY* WHERE I NEED TO BE!

SCREEEE

KLANG

YOU WILL BE LEAVING MY FAMILY'S HOME, OR I WILL *REMOVE* YOU!

OOh! NICE FORM! BUT SLOW.

HAHAHA! THAT WOULD BE THREATENING-- *IF* IT CAME FROM SOME-ONE ELSE!

YEEP!

SONIC? NOW THERE IS A *CONTEN-DIENTE.*

BUT YOU? YOU ARE A SAD LITTLE MAN FROM A SAD LITTLE FAMILY.

SHA-KOW

GRRUMMBLE

SHRRRRRIP

WHUMP

MÉRE. PÉRE. ZIS IS NOT HOW I WANTED IT TO BE...

EARLIER...

WELCOME TO MY ANCESTRAL HOME, SONIC.

DUDE! THIS ISN'T A "HOME." THIS IS A ***CASTLE!***

EET IS ONLY A SMALL ONE.

"SMALL" HE SAYS. IT'S A CASTLE, 'TWAN. IT'S COOL BY DEFAULT.

MERCI. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GIVING YOU ZE TOUR, NO? FIRST YOU WILL NOTICE ZE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS MY PARENTS MAINTAINED.

YEAH... Um... ABOUT THAT TOPIARY...

Ah, YES! OF MY FATHER. EET USED TO SCARE ME AS ZE LITTLE CHILD, BUT NOW EET...

...IS RUINED?! ***ZUT ALORES!***

I GUESS A STORM MUST'VE BLOWN THROUGH. MAYBE THE STAFF CAN...?

THERE EEZ NO STAFF. MY PARENTS MAINTAINED ZE CASTLE AND ZE GROUNDS THEM-SELVES...

SO WHO'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER THINGS? WHO TAKE CARE OF YOUR... ER...

BOW AND ZE WOODLAND KINGSMEN. THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHEN MY PARENTS... ***PASSED***...AND TAKE CARE OF THINGS...

EET FEELS STRANGE TO WALK DOWN ZE HALL OF BANNERS AGAIN. ZE WALLS FELT SO MUCH HIGHER WHEN I WAS LITTLE. I HAVE BEEN GONE TOO LONG...

WOW! SO, ALL THESE BANNERS SURE ARE... SOMETHING. I BET YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM.

OUI. NOW ***ZAT*** IS THE FASCINATING HISTORY LESSON!

YOU ASKED FOR IT, HEDGEHOG. THIS IS FOR HIM. ***TRY*** TO BE INTERESTED...

"LONG AGO, ZE CONTINENT WAS UNITED UNDER KING ARTHUR SYLVANNIA. AFTER MANY DARING ADVENTURES HE BROUGHT TOGETHER ZE NOBLE FAMILIES OF ZE MANY NATIONS."

"THEY BECAME HIS KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND, AND ZE COUNTRIES LIVED IN PEACE UNDER ZE BANNER OF AVALON. "UNITED AS EQUALS WAS THEIR CREDO."

"OF KING SYLVANNIA'S KNIGHTS, ZE TWO THAT SERVED HIM FROM ZE START WERE SIR KAY ACORN AND MY ANCESTOR, SIR BÉDOIER D'COOLETTE."

"KING SYLVANNIA REWARDED KAY'S SERVICE BY HELPING TO RETAKE HIS LOST HOMELAND AND RE-ESTABLISH ZE KINGDOM OF ACORN."

"BÉDOIER REMAINED ZE KING'S RIGHT-HAND KNIGHT AND MAINTAINED ZE DEEP FRIENDSHIP WITH KAY."

EVERY GENERATION, MY FAMILY TAKES PART IN ZE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THEY SEND THEIR ELDEST CHILD TO SERVE AND TRAIN UNDER ZE KINGDOM OF ACORN.

IN RETURN, ZE KINGDOM OF ACORN SENDS A NOBLE HEIR TO TRAIN UNDER ONE OF ZE FAMILIES LOYAL TO AVALON.

WHOA. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WENT BACK THAT FAR.

HOLD UP-- "ELDEST?" DOES THAT MEAN...?

NON, I AM ZE ONLY CHILD. IF I HAD ZE OLDER BROTHER OR SISTER, THOUGH, THEY WOULD'VE GONE INSTEAD OF ME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EXCHANGE-BUDDY? THE NOBLE KID THAT WAS SENT HERE?

SHE EES STILL AROUND, WORKING WITH BOW'S TEAM. BECAUSE OF EGGMAN'S CONQUESTS, THINGS DID NOT GO...WELL, TRADITIONALLY.

IS SHE BITTER ABOUT NOT GOING HOME? 'CAUSE IF THIS HER IDEA OF A PRANK, IT'S NOT FUNNY.

MON DIEU!

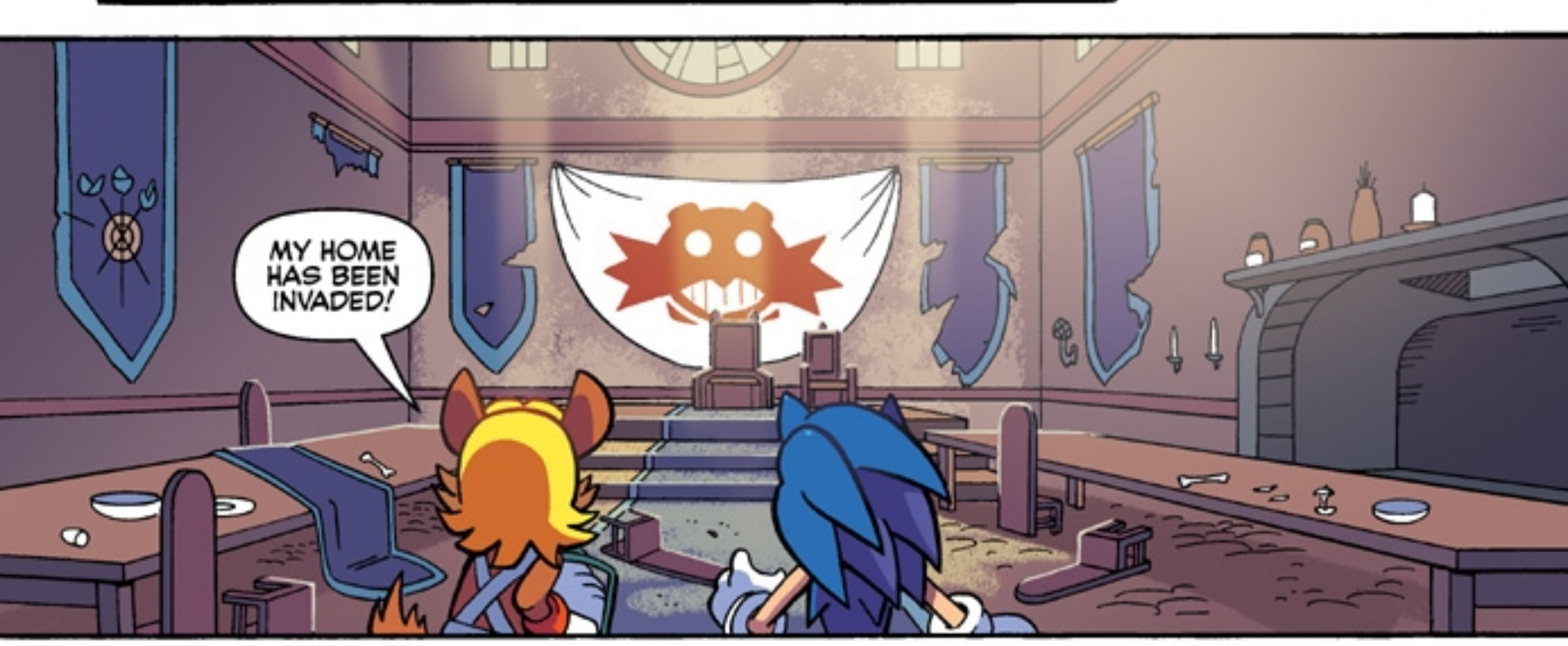
HAVE U SEEN ME?

PILE OF FAILURES

I'M THINKING THAT TOPIARY *WASN'T* AN ACCIDENT.

'TWAN?

ZIS IS NOT SOME PRANK!
AW, MAN...


MY HOME HAS BEEN INVADED!

CLAP
CLAP
BRAVO! AND YOU ARRIVED TO STOP IT IN RECORD TIME!

NO-WHERE IN THE HISTORY OF THIS LAND HAS ANYONE TAKEN ***SO LONG*** TO PROTECT THEIR HOME!

FRIEND OF YOURS? OTHER-WISE, I'M GONNA LEAVE TREAD MARKS ON HIS FACE.

WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY HOME?!

I AM ***INIGO CORTEZ***, MASTER OF BLADES TO EGG BOSS MORDRED HOOD.

AND AS FOR THIS OVERSIZED *BAÑO*...

...I HAVE TURNED IT UPSIDE DOWN LOOKING FOR THE SACRED SWORD YOUR FAMILY HAS BEEN HOLDING.

I HAD HOPED TO INTERROGATE THE WOODLAND KINGSMEN, BUT THEY PROVED TO BE AS COWARDLY AS YOU AND RAN BEFORE I ARRIVED.

SO I MADE MYSELF AT HOME AND WAITED FOR YOU TO RETURN.

I FIGURED YOU'D BE SCRAPING TOGETHER THE COURAGE TO DO SO, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D NEED TO HAVE SONIC HOLD YOUR HAND.

I'M NOT HOLDING HIS HAND, BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET MY FOOT TO YOUR HEAD!

IS THAT COURAGE AT LAST? NO, I THINK IT'S JUST ANGER AND SHAME!

SCHING

POR FIN!

YOU HAVE DISHONORED YOURSELF FOR NOTHING! ZE SACRED SWORDS ARE JUST A MYTH! THEY ARE ZE SYMBOL OF ZE FOUNDING NATIONS!

HAHA! HOW EMBARRASSING! YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH!

WHILE I FOUND IT ALL ON MY OWN.

BWOOOSH

THIS IS ONE OF THE SEVEN SACRED SWORDS. YOU WILL GIVE ME ANOTHER. AND ONCE I FIND THE REST, THE TRULY WORTHY RULER OF AVALON WILL TAKE THE THRONE AND--

POW

GRNK!

GOTTA LOVE THESE EGO-TRIPPERS. ALL THAT MONOLOGING LEAVES THEM WIDE OPEN.

OUI, BUT AT LEAST YOU HAVE YOUR SPEED TO COMPENSATE.

HA! SAVE THE SICK BURNS FOR CORTEZ.

A DUEL WITH SONIC... IT'S BEEN WORTH THE WAIT!

YOU PICKED THE WRONG CASTLE TO CRASH, BUDDY!

HE IS RIGHT. I *HAVE* BEEN A COWARD.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE FOR YOU. I SHOULDN'T HAVE STAYED AWAY SO LONG. I...

ANTOINE! YOU OKAY BUDDY?!

FORGET THE WEAKLING!

Dearest Antoine,

If you are reading this, then the worst has befallen us. Please forgive us for not telling you more, but there was never a right time. You have never stopped fighting for what' right, notre fils. You have faced great perils far from the comfort of home. We did not want to burden you with our family's legacy while you carried on the battle with Dr. Eggman.

Before you is the Sacred Sword entrusted to our family by King Sylvannia. It is yours by birthright, but you have earned this honor a hundred times over. Our only regret is not giving this you in life. Know that we have always been proud of you.

With eternal love,
Papa & Mama

SKRAKK

'TWAN! I COULD USE A HAND OUT HERE!

LET HIM SIMPER IN THE SHADOWS! I WANT A **REAL** FIGHT!

FIRST YOU ARE WANTING ZE SACRED SWORD. THEN YOU ARE WANTING A FIGHT.

I WILL GIVE YOU BOTH.

Oh-HO-*HO!* YOU BROUGHT IT TO ME. *GRACIAS.*

SHKAK

IDIOTA! YOU GO FROM DISMISSING THE SACRED SWORDS AS A MYTH TO WIELDING ONE? YOU CANNOT HOPE TO HARNESS ITS POWER!

HRK! I WILL... BECAUSE ZE BLADE... THINKS I'M WORTHY...!

...*I* THINK I AM WORTHY.

SCHWASH

SCHWASH

SCHWASH

GAH!

≥Huff≤ HOW...?! ≥Huff≤ YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...!

KLANG

BRAVO! QUESTION IS-- WHAT DO WE DO WITH SEÑOR JERKFACE NOW?

HE HAS INSULTED MY NAME AND MY FAMILY. HE HAS INVADED MY HOME AND SERVES A VILLAIN.

ZO I AM LETTING HIM GO.

DID...DID I MISS SOME-THING HERE?

LET HIM RUN HOME TO HIS MASTER. LET HIM TELL OF HOW ZE "COWARD" ANTOINE FOUND ZE SWORD HE COULD NOT, UNLOCKED ITS POWER, AND BEAT HIM IN SINGLE COMBAT IN--Oh-- FIVE MINUTES?

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY, Eh?

Oh-HON-HON-HON... *OUI.*

NOW LEAVE. AND KNOW ZIS-- ZE SACRED SWORDS ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION NOW.

PROVIDED YOU FIND THEM FIRST, Eh? UNTIL NEXT TIME... ***SIR*** D'COOLETTE.

...***SIR*** CORTEZ.

I DON'T GET IT. BUT YOUR CASTLE, YOUR RULES.

MERCI FOR YOUR SUPPORT, *MON AMI*. I APPRECIATE IT.

ANY TIME, BUD.

≥Whew!≤ I WAS NOT EMOTIONALLY PREPARED FOR TODAY...

SO...DO WE START LOOKING FOR THE OTHER SWORDS NOW OR WHAT?

I WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. AND IF CORTEZ WASTED SO MUCH TIME WAITING FOR ME HERE, I DOUBT HE HAS MANY LEADS EITHER.

ZE TRULY PRESSING MATTER IS ZE DEATH EGG. WE MUST DEAL WITH IT FIRST. THEN I WILL BE FREE TO RESEARCH THE SACRED SWORDS, AND THEN MY QUEST WILL BE BEGINNING IN EARNEST!

Y'KNOW, THIS IS A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.

REALLY? BUT IT IS ALL TATTERS, AND MY HAIR IS A MESS!

Nah, DUDE. YOU'RE DUE FOR A WARDROBE CHANGE. AND BUNNIE'S GONNA DIG THE NEW, RUGGED YOU.

OOH-HOO-HOO! Y-YOU REALLY THINK ZO? I...SHE...WE HEE!

C'MON, I'LL HELP YOU CLEAN THIS PLACE UP.

AND SO...

THAT'S THE WORST OF IT. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT WALL, THOUGH. I'M NOT MUCH OF A MASON. MAYBE BOW'S GROUP CAN DO SOMETHING...IF WE CAN TRACK THEM DOWN.

THEY HAVE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH. I AM GLAD THEY ESCAPED BEFORE CORTEZ FOUND THEM.

SO... ARE YOU STILL WORKING FOR KING ACORN NOW OR WHAT?

I AM OLD ENOUGH NOW... I'VE FULFILLED MY DUTY TO HIM. MY HOMELAND NEEDS ME.

I CAME HERE FOR CLOSURE, AND INSTEAD ZIS WHOLE NEW WORLD WAS OPENED TO ME.

IS ZIS WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR YOU EVERY DAY?

YOU KNOW IT! ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

HOW EXHAUSTING! I WILL BE KEEPING TO ZIS ONE DESTINY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HAHA! LEAVES MORE ADVENTURES FOR ME!

Um... I WAS THE ONE FLYING US HERE?

YEAH, AND I'M THE ONE FLYING US BACK.

YOU JUST GOT A CAPE, MAN. YOU CAN'T MISS THIS CHANCE.

YOU ARE SURE?

YOU'VE EARNED THE SPOT TODAY.

ANTOINE'S QUEST FOR THE ***SACRED SWORDS*** HAS BEGUN! YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG IN THE PAGES OF ***SONIC THE HEDGEHOG*** AND ***SONIC UNIVERSE*** IN THE ISSUES TO COME!

NEXT: BUNNIE RABBOT & BLAZE THE CAT!

CATCH EVEN MORE SONIC FUN WITH ***SONIC THE HEDGEHOG***, ***SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE***, ***SONIC SUPER DIGEST*** AND THE ***GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY***!